

M. Brorsen has communicated to the *Astronomische Nachrichten* the following note respecting the phenomenon accompanying the zodiacal light, alluded to in the *Monthly Notices* for November:—

“I have observed this phenomenon here, and also upon the island of Alsen in the duchy of Schleswig, during the last two years, and have given a detailed account of it in Dr. Jahn’s *Weekly Conversations on Astronomy* for 1854. The observations, which essentially agree in both years, are the following:—The phenomenon is seen, not only about the time of the vernal equinox, but also during the period of the autumnal equinox, although undoubtedly it is more conspicuous in the earlier season of the year. The first faint traces of it are perceived in the month of February. It continues to increase in brightness and extent throughout the months of March, April, and the beginning of May. The fainter and less considerable phenomenon of autumn is visible during the months of September, October, and November. With respect to both phenomena, I have convinced myself by repeated observations, that the brightest part lies exactly opposite to the sun, so that the estimated point of most intense light falls decidedly within a degree of the point which is in opposition to the sun. The observations further indicate, that the phenomenon of spring connects itself with the western zodiacal light towards the middle of April by a faint streak of light, gradually increasing in brightness, which was not previously visible. But the phenomenon of autumn appears in the first half of November to extend along the ecliptic as far as the western horizon in the shape of a very faint and previously invisible zone of light, which gradually increases in brightness and in the breadth of its base, until at length it assumes the well-known aspect of the winter evening zodiacal light. From this time, however, till the beginning of March, its extremity remains almost stationary about the region of τ_1 and τ_2 *Arietis*. Both phenomena can be seen here distinctly every evening at the same season of the year, when the sky is clear, and the observed position of the heavens is moderately high; nay, they are even visible at the commencement of moonlight.

“*Senftenberg, Nov. 13, 1855.*”

At the meeting of the Society there was exhibited a series of beautiful photographs of the moon, which were executed with the great refractor of the Cambridge Observatory, U.S.

Mr. A. F. McIntosh has forwarded a paper on *Saturn's* rings. He supposes that these appendages originally consisted of separate streams of a fluid substance circulating around the sun in the vicinity of *Saturn's* orbit; that the planet's attraction converted them into rings about himself; and that the number of rings is owing to the number of separate streams of matter. The author has entered into various speculations in support of his views, but it would be unnecessary to make any further allusion to them here.

Tafeln der Flora mit Berücksichtigung der Störungen durch Jupiter und Saturn entworfen von F. Brünnow, Dr., Director der Sternwarte zu Ann-Arbor in Michigan. Berlin, 1855.

These Tables of *Flora* are constructed by Dr. Brünnow according to a theory of general perturbations devised by Professor Encke. An account of this theory is given by Professor Encke in a letter to the Astronomer Royal, which is published in the *Monthly Notices* for May 1853. The mean elliptic elements of the planet having been deduced from a series of observations extending only over four years, it cannot be expected that the Tables will be capable of representing the motion of the planet with anything more than an approximate degree of accuracy beyond a limited period of time. The author, however, expresses a confident hope, that at some future epoch, when an extensive series of oppositions of the planet shall have been obtained, the mean elliptic elements may be deduced by the aid of the Tables with such accuracy, that when the perturbations have been strictly computed, new tables of the planet may be constructed, which shall satisfy the wants of the astronomer for a long period of time—perhaps for hundreds of years.

A gentleman engaged in astronomical pursuits is desirous of purchasing a second-hand transit-instrument of modern construction possessing something like the following requirements:—Size, 2 or $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet; aperture of object-glass, not less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; portable iron stand; maker, Troughton and Simms, or Dollond; furnished with one or more moveable wire-micrometers. For further information apply at the Apartments of the Society.